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Pirates at the Port (of Los Angeles)

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Written by Jack Humphreville

LA WATCHDOG-The growth of the Port of Los Angeles and its ability to maintain and create good paying jobs and its market share of imported cargo are under siege by external market forces as well as the demand by the San Pedro and Wilmington communities to finance \$400 million of public benefits over the next ten years.

The Harbor Department, one of the City's three proprietary departments, is responsible for the operation of the Port of Los Angeles, the largest port in the county. Last year, the Port handled over 8 million containers and, along with the Port of Long Beach, controlled over 70% of the West Coast market.

Together with the Ports of Oakland and Seattle-Tacoma, the West Coast ports handle about 65% of the imports from East Asia.

However, based on a recent report ("Wide Open: How the Panama Canal is Redrawing the Logistics Map") by The Boston Consulting Group and C. H. Robinson, a leading, worldwide third party logistics firm, the West Coast's market share of imports from East Asia could dip to 50% by 2020 as a result of the opening of the expanded Panama Canal in 2016.

Fueling this shift in market share is the lower cost to reach Chicago and other Midwest markets by an all water service

<http://www.citywatchla.com/lead-stories-hidden/9274-pirates-at-the-port-of-los-angeles>